

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01

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R 281623Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2149

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USIA WASHDC

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON SECURITY COUNCIL

DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: A) STATE 019616, B) STATE 019613, C) USIS/COP/281556Z

D) COPENHAGEN 0152, E) COPENHAGEN 0011

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SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN YESTERDAY ISSUED A CAREFUL STATEMENT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE US VETO. ITS "BALANCED" LANGUAGE (1) REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR THE EC NINE POSITION EXPRESSED LAST FALL; (2) NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION INCLUDED CONFIRMATION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST; (3) OBSERVED THAT THE RESOLUTION FAILED BECAUSE IT OMITTED REFERENCE TO 242 AND 338. IN GENERAL, THE REACTION HERE TO THE US VETO HAS BEEN ONE OF UNDERSTANDING. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATE YESTERDAY (JANUARY 27) AFTERNOON:

"THE MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL MUST BE REGARDED IN RELATION TO DISCUSSIONS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST FALL AND THE RESOLUTIONS THEN ADOPTED. DURING THIS DEBATE, THE ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE MADE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EC NINE COUNTRIES. THIS STATEMENT STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF APPLYING THE BASIC MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. IT WAS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. A PEACE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED WHICH DEMONSTRATES CONSIDERATION FOR THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. SUCH AN AGREEMENT ALSO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA - BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES - TO EXIST WITHIN SAFE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS. THE AGREEMENT MUST ALSO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY. THIS STILL COVERS THE DANISH ATTITUDE."

2. ANDERSEN WENT ON TO NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH THE DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL APPEARED NOT TO HAVE BROUGHT A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT ANY CLOSER, NEITHER DID IT APPEAR TO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE PEACE TALKS. HE OBSERVED THAT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION INCLUDED A CONFIRMATION OF THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA TO EXIST WITHIN SAFE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS. IT ALSO CONFIRMED ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT, HE SAID, WAS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMPHASIS ON THE "CENTRAL POSITION" WHICH THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION PLAYS IN REACHING A SOLUTION,

3. ANDERSEN CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HIS BELIEF THAT THE REASON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION FAILED WAS THAT THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO THE BASIC RESOLUTIONS, 242 AND 338.

4. ALMOST ALL DANISH PRESS COMMENT (REF C) EXPRESSED

UNDERSTANDING FOR THE US VETO: THE U.S. EXPECTEDLY BACKED ISRAEL SINCE THE PLO REFUSES TO DECLARE ITS WILLINGNESS TO "RECOGNIZE" ISRAEL; THE U.S. MUST KEEP THE FRIENDSHIP OF ISRAEL IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THAT COUNTRY'S POLICIES IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS; THE U.S. MUST NOW GET ON WITH PUSHING FORWARD ON NEW NEGOTIATIONS.

5. MFA'S CHIEF OF UN AFFAIRS, BENT HAAKONSEN, LEFT TODAY FOR HELSINKI TO PARTICIPATE THERE IN DISCUSSIONS OF UN MATTERS AMONG NORDIC MFA REPRESENTATIVES. POLCOUNS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH HIM BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE AND GAVE HIM COPIES OF REF A (SUPPORTED BY THE ORAL PRESENTATION OUTLINED IN PARA 1, REF B), AS WELL AS THE WIRELESS FILE REPORT OF AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S SPEECH AT THE UN EXPLAINING THE US VETO.

6. HAAKONSEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE TONE AND FORWARD-LOOKING THRUST OF AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S REMARKS. HE ALSO DESCRIBED ANDERSEN'S STATEMENT AS AN ATTEMPT AT "BALANCED COMMENT" AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE DANES CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO THE STATEMENT IN BEHALF OF THE NINE MADE BY THE ITALIANS LAST FALL.

7. COMMENT: WE INTERPRET ANDERSEN'S SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS COMMENTS IN THE LIGHT OF HIS RECENT PUBLIC ATTEMPTS TO BALANCE DENMARK'S FUNDAMENTAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WITH A DESIRE TO AVOID ALIENATING THE ARABS (REFS D AND E). IN SUM, HOWEVER, THE U.S. VETO OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION HAS MET WITH GENERAL UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT HERE.
DEAN

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